

In the CLAIMS:

*Please amend claims 9-11, 14, 16-33 and 36-37 as follows. Also, please cancel claim 15.
All claims are presented with their appropriate status indicators.*

1. (Withdrawn) Method for producing an electrically conductive connection between an electrical terminal device (104) having a cut-out and a sheet metal part (50), in which a hollow fastener element (10) having an end face is rotationally fixedly riveted to the sheet metal part and an electrically conductive connection is hereby produced between the fastener element and the sheet metal part and the so manufactured component assembly is subsequently provided with an electrically non-conductive or poorly-conductive protective coating (120) wherein a mount (80) for the electrical terminal device (104) is formed in the region of the end face (80) of the fastener element to which the electrical terminal device (104) is attached and prevents a rotation of the terminal device relative to the fastener element (10) and the sheet metal part (50) and wherein a thread forming or thread cutting screw (106) is screwed through the cut-out (110) of the electrical terminal device and into the hollow fastener element (10) and there forms or cuts a thread by the screw-in movement.
2. (Withdrawn) Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the fastener element (10) is attached to the sheet metal part (50) so that it is secure against button-out.
3. (Withdrawn) Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the fastener element (10) is self-piercingly attached to the sheet metal part.
4. (Withdrawn) Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the mount (82) is formed by at least one projection (40, 41) which projects beyond the end face of the fastener element.
5. (Withdrawn) Method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the fastener element is executed with two projections (40) which are formed by two lugs having a spacing from one another and which are arranged to the side of a bore of the hollow fastener element (10).
6. (Withdrawn) Method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the projection (41) is arranged around the bore (38) of the hollow fastener element (10) and is made polygonal in its external outline.

7. (Withdrawn) Method in accordance with claim 5, wherein the projection (41) is made one of triangular, square, hexagonal or octagonal in its external outline.
8. (Withdrawn) Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the mount (80) is formed by a recess in the end face of the fastener element which merges into one or more radially extending grooves.
9. (Currently Amended) A hollow ~~Hollow~~ fastener element for ~~[[the]]~~ an electrically conductive attachment of an electrical terminal device (104) to a sheet metal part, wherein the hollow fastener element (10) has a head part (14) and a tubular rivet section (16), wherein a tubular guide section (18) is arranged concentric to the tubular rivet section (16) and radially inside the latter, with a ring gap (20) being provided between the tubular guide section (18) and the tubular rivet section (16), and with the tubular guide section projecting beyond a free end of the tubular rivet section, and wherein on attachment of the fastener element to the sheet metal part the tubular rivet section is bent outwardly when a free end of the tubular rivet section (16) is pressed on by a die button (56) with the tubular rivet section (16) merging via a contact surface (12) for the sheet metal part into the head part (14) and with features (30) providing security against rotation being provided at the contact surface and/or at the rivet section (16), wherein said head part has an end face remote from said tubular rivet section (16), wherein the hollow fastener element has a bore (38), at a point at which a thread is formed by screwing-in a thread cutting or thread forming screw (106) thereby forming an electrically conductive connection between said screw and said element and wherein a mount (80) for ~~[[the]]~~ a rotationally secure attachment of the electrical ~~connection~~ terminal device (104) to the hollow fastener element is provided at the end face of said head part (14).
10. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 9, wherein the mount (80) is formed by at least one projection (40; 41) projecting beyond the end face of the hollow fastener element.
11. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 9, wherein the hollow fastener element (10) is executed with two projections which are formed by two lugs having a spacing from one another which are arranged to ~~[[the]]~~ a side of the bore (38)

of the hollow fastener element.

12. (Withdrawn) Fastener element in accordance with claim 10, wherein the projection (41) is arranged around the bore of the hollow fastener element and is made polygonal in its external outline.

13. (Withdrawn) Fastener element in accordance with claim 12, wherein the projection (41) is made triangular, square, hexagonal or octagonal in its external outline.

14. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 9, wherein the mount (80) is formed by a recess in the end face of ~~[[a]]~~ the hollow fastener element which merges into one or more radially extending grooves.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 15, wherein the free end ~~of the wall~~ of the tubular rivet section (16) is rounded when viewed in an axial section plane both at ~~[[the]]~~ a radially outer side (24) and also at ~~[[the]]~~ a radially inner side (26).

17. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 15, wherein the ring gap (20) has a radial dimension in ~~[[the]]~~ a range between 0 mm and approximately 3 mm.

18. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 15, wherein the ring gap (20) finishes at an axial spacing (a) before the contact surface (12) at ~~[[the]]~~ a rivet section side of the contact surface (12).

19. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 15, wherein the guide section (18) is formed as a piercing section and has a circular cutting edge (28) at its end remote from the contact surface (12).

20. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 15, wherein the features (30) providing security against rotation are disposed at at least one of the region of the contact surface (12), the tubular rivet section (16) and ~~[[the]]~~ a jacket surface of the

head part (14) being adjacent to the contact surface (12).

21. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 20, wherein the features (30) providing security against rotation are formed by at least one of noses and grooves.

22. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 21, wherein the noses (30) providing security against rotation are provided and are present in raised form at the contact surface (12) and at the tubular rivet section (16) in the region of the transition from the contact surface to the tubular rivet section.

23. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 22, wherein said noses (30) providing security against rotation extend in ~~[[the]]~~ a radial direction at the contact surface (12) and in ~~[[the]]~~ an axial direction at the rivet section (16).

24. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 9, said features providing security against rotation comprise noses and have one of a generally rounded shape and side flanks (32) which lie in planes extending in ~~[[the]]~~ a longitudinal direction of the hollow fastener element.

25. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance claim 15, ~~wherein further comprising the hollow fastener element has a hollow cylindrical region (38) where the thread forming or cutting screw forms or cuts a thread cylinder, said hollow cylindrical region being one of~~ ~~[[is]]~~ provided in the head part (14), provided in the guide section (18), and provided at least partly in the head part (14) and in the guide section (18).

26. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 25, wherein said thread cylinder ends in ~~[[the]]~~ an axial direction approximately at a position where said gap (20) ends.

27. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 11, wherein ~~said projection is formed by at least one lug and the other~~ at least one of the two lugs ~~lug~~ (40) has a flank, which, on ~~[[the]]~~ an attachment of a cable shoe, prevents rotation of the latter about ~~[[the]]~~ a longitudinal axis (11) of the ~~functional~~ hollow fastener element (10).

28. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 27, wherein, at ~~[[the]]~~ a position of the at least one of the two lugs ~~or each lug (40)~~, ~~[[the]]~~ a jacket surface of the head part (14) has a corresponding recess (42) which, on ~~[[the]]~~ an attachment of the ~~functional~~ hollow fastener element to ~~[[a]]~~ the sheet metal part (50), serves as ~~[[a]]~~ the security against rotation.

29. (Currently Amended) The hollow fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance claim 9, wherein said rivet section is a piercing and riveting section.

30. (Currently Amended) A component ~~Component~~ assembly ~~consisting of~~ comprising a sheet metal part (50) and a hollow fastener element (10) attached to it via a rivet connection, wherein the hollow fastener element is rotationally fixedly secured to the sheet metal part by means of features (30) providing security against rotation, ~~[[and]]~~ the hollow fastener element and the sheet metal part are jointly coated with an electrically non-conductive or poorly conductive protective coating (120), and an electrically conductive path is provided between the hollow fastener element and the sheet metal part at at least ~~[[at]]~~ one of the region of the rivet connection and at the features providing security against rotation, wherein the hollow fastener element has a smooth cylinder bore (38) for receiving a thread forming or cutting screw whereby said thread forming or cutting screw forms or cuts a screw thread into said bore to form an electrically conductive connection to said hollow fastener element at said bore, and wherein the hollow fastener element has an end face remote from the rivet connection and a mount (80) at the end face remote from the rivet connection for the rotationally secure attachment of an electrical terminal device (104), with a head of said thread forming or cutting screw forming an electrically conductive connection to said electrical terminal device thereby establishing an electrical connection from said electrical terminal device to said head of said screw, via said screw to said hollow fastener element, and via said screw thread and from said hollow fastener element to said sheet metal part.

31. (Currently Amended) The component ~~Component~~ assembly in accordance with claim 30, wherein a thread cutting or forming screw (106) is screwed into the hollow fastener element (10) and holds the electrical connection device at the hollow fastener element (10) in the manner secure against rotation.

32. (Currently Amended) The component ~~Component~~ assembly in accordance with claim 30, wherein the mount (80) is formed by at least one projection (40; 41) projecting beyond the end face of the fastener element.

33. (Currently Amended) The component ~~Component~~ assembly in accordance with claim 32, wherein the fastener element is executed with two projections (40) which are formed by two lugs having a spacing from one another which are disposed to the side of the hole (38) of the hollow fastener element.

34. (Withdrawn) Component assembly in accordance with claim 32, wherein the projection (41) is arranged around the bore (38) of the hollow fastener element (10) and is made polygonal in its external outline.

35. (Withdrawn) Fastener element in accordance with claim 34, wherein the projection (41) is made one of triangular, square, hexagonal and octagonal in cross-section.

36. (Currently Amended) The component assembly ~~Fastener element~~ in accordance with claim 32, wherein said [[the]] mount (80) is formed by a recess in the end face of the fastener element which merges into one or more radially extending grooves.

37. (Currently Amended) The tubular fastener ~~Fastener~~ element in accordance with claim 16, wherein said free end wall of the tubular rivet section has one of a semi-circular shape and a shape resembling an arrow-tip.